2/8/85 S6615-2

OREGON LABOR TRENDS

Prepared by Research and Statistics Section

STATE OF OREGON • EMPLOYMENT DIVISION • DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

JANUARY 1985

DECEMBER INDICATORS

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

		(Seas. Adj.)
Oregon		
Dec.	1984	8.6
Nov.	1984	9.0
Dec.	1983	9.5
U.S.		
Dec.	1984	7.2
Nov.	1984	7.1
Dec.	1983	8.2

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT INDEX

Oregon		1977=100
Dec.	1984	107.0
Nov.	1984	106.7
Oct.	1984	106.9
Sep.	1984	106.0
Aug.	1984	106.1

DIFFUSION INDEX

Oregon

Dec.	1984	55.8
Nov.	1984	48.8
Oct.	1984	53.9
Sep.	1984	51.6
Aug.	1984	55.8

PRODUCTION WORKER AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS

Oregon

Nov.	1984	38.5
Oct.	1984	38.8
Nov.	1983	38.9

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI)

1967=100

ALL URBAN CONSUMERS

Portland MSA

Nov. 1984	304.8
Yearly Change	+ 3.7%

U.S.

Nov. 1984	315.5
Yearly Change	+ 4.0%

Portland Hotline 221-4132

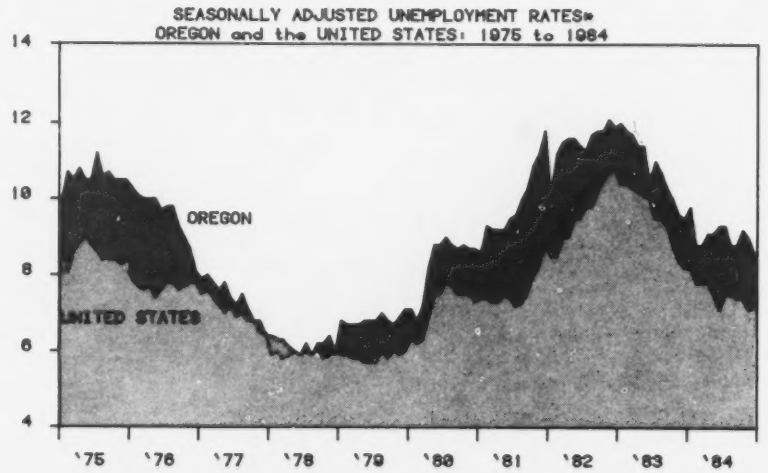
MONTHLY ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

Gary Barker

Oregon exited 1984 on a positive note, which was not a bad way to wrap up the year of Mr. Orwell's concern. The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dipped to 8.6% in December, the lowest figure recorded since January 1981. Though rising to 124,500, the jobless count did not spring up as much as seasonal trends would dictate. Equally favorable was the count of the employed. The nonfarm wage and salary employment index hit 107.0 for a gain of .3 over the month. December's statistics reflect a continuation of the moderate-to-good business climate felt throughout the year in most major metropolitan areas of the state.

The national economic picture changed little in December, with the civilian unemployment rate moving to 7.2% from 7.1% in November. Severe weather in selected areas of the nation slowed some industrial activity, but overall the U.S. economic picture remained favorable.

The most notable change among Oregon's December statistics was the resurgence of the diffusion index. Acting as one of the best advance warning or lead indicators of shifts in the economic cycle, the diffusion index dropped to the year's low in November - a worrisome 48.8. The track record of the index shows that an economic slowing may be imminent when the diffusion index falls below the 50.0 mark for a period of several months. December, however, found the indicator bounding back to 55.8, the single largest over the month increase in the index in nearly two years.



RESIDENT OREGON LABOR FORCE

	Dec. 1984 1/	Nov. 1984 2/	Change	% Change	Dec. 1983 5/
Civilian Labor Force 3/	1,323,500	1,330,200	- 6,700	-0.5	1,327,800
Unemployment	124,500	119,000	5,500	4.6	131,600
Percent of Labor Force	9.4	8.9	xxx	xxx	9.9
Seasonally Adjusted Percent	8.6	9.0	xxx	xxx	9.5
Total Employment 4/	1,199,000	1,211,200	-12,200	-1.0	1,196,200

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Revised. 3/ Includes employed and unemployed individuals 16 years and older. Data are adjusted for multiple job-holding and commuting. 4/ Includes nonagricultural wage and salary, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics, farm workers, and labor disputants. 5/ Due to revised estimating procedures between December 1983 and January 1984, data for 1984 and that of previous years are not strictly comparable.

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(By Place of Work)

INDUSTRY	Dec. 1984 1/	Nov. 1984 2/	Dec. 1983	Change From Nov. 1984	Change From Dec. 1983
TOTAL 3/	1,004,100	1,008,800	976,400	-4,700	27,700
Wage & Salary Employment Index 4/	107.0	106.7	103.6	xxx	xxx
Diffusion Index 5/	55.8	48.8	58.1	xxx	xxx
Total Manufacturing	193,000	195,900	186,300	-2,900	6,700
Durable Goods	141,600	142,800	135,600	-1,200	6,000
Lumber & Wood Products	62,500	63,700	63,200	-1,200	- 700
Logging & Sawmills	31,900	32,800	31,900	- 900	0
Veneer & Plywood	16,600	16,800	17,400	- 200	- 800
Millwork & Structural Wood	8,800	8,800	8,400	0	400
Mobile Homes	1,300	1,500	1,700	- 200	- 400
Other Wood Products	3,900	3,800	3,800	100	100
Furniture & Fixtures	2,300	2,300	2,200	0	100
Stone, Clay, Glass, & Concrete	2,900	3,100	2,900	- 200	0
Primary Metals	8,600	8,700	8,000	- 100	600
Blast Furnaces, Iron & Steel	5,200	5,200	4,100	0	1,100
Nonferrous Metals	3,400	3,500	3,900	- 100	- 500
Fabricated Metals	10,300	10,400	9,300	- 100	1,000
Fabricated Structural Metals	4,900	4,900	4,000	0	900
Other Fabricated Metals	5,400	5,500	5,300	- 100	- 100
Machinery	16,400	16,500	15,000	- 100	1,400
Electrical Equipment & Supplies	13,500	13,600	11,300	- 100	2,200
Transportation Equipment	7,900	7,400	7,000	500	900
Instruments & Related Products	14,600	14,500	14,300	100	300
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	2,600	2,600	2,400	0	200
Nondurable Goods	51,400	53,100	50,700	-1,700	700
Food & Kindred Products	21,300	23,200	20,400	-1,900	900
Canning & Preserving	11,000	12,800	10,300	-1,800	700
Other Food Products	10,300	10,400	10,100	- 100	200
Textile Mill Products	1,800	1,800	1,800	0	0
Apparel	2,600	2,600	2,600	0	0
Paper & Allied Products	9,100	8,700	9,500	400	- 400
Printing & Publishing	11,000	11,000	10,600	0	400
Chemicals & Allied Products	2,200	2,200	2,200	0	0
Petroleum Refining	300	500	500	- 200	- 200
Rubber & Plastic Products	2,600	2,700	2,600	- 100	0
Leather Products	500	400	500	100	0

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(By Place of Work)

INDUSTRY	Dec. 1984	Nov. 1984	Dec. 1983	Change From Nov. 1984	Change From Dec. 1983
(cont.)					
Total Nonmanufacturing	811,100	812,900	790,100	-1,800	21,000
Mining & Quarrying	1,700	1,700	1,600	0	100
Construction	27,100	28,300	25,500	-1,200	1,600
Transportation, Communications, & Utilities	54,200	54,400	55,500	- 200	- 1,300
Transportation	32,200	32,300	32,200	- 100	0
Railroad	5,200	5,200	5,100	0	100
Trucking & Warehousing	17,000	17,100	17,100	- 100	- 100
Other Transportation	10,000	10,000	10,000	0	0
Communications	13,700	13,800	14,900	- 100	- 1,200
Utilities	8,300	8,300	8,400	0	- 100
Trade	258,800	257,200	252,400	1,600	6,400
Wholesale Trade	65,000	64,900	62,900	100	2,100
Durable Goods	37,500	37,400	36,900	100	600
Nondurable Goods	27,500	27,500	26,000	0	1,500
Retail Trade	193,800	192,300	189,500	1,500	4,300
General Merchandise	27,200	26,800	27,800	400	- 600
Food Stores	29,400	29,200	28,700	200	700
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	23,700	23,600	22,900	100	800
Other Retail Trade	113,500	112,700	110,100	800	3,400
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	66,900	66,900	65,500	0	1,400
Banking & Credit Agencies	23,200	23,200	23,600	0	- 400
Other Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	43,700	43,700	41,900	0	1,800
Services	202,000	202,300	193,700	- 300	8,300
Hotels & Personal Services	23,300	23,700	22,300	- 400	1,000
Health Services	69,000	69,200	66,600	- 200	2,400
Other Services	109,700	109,400	104,800	300	4,900
Government	200,400	202,100	195,900	-1,700	4,500
Federal Government	30,100	29,900	29,200	200	900
State Government	52,800	54,000	51,800	-1,200	1,000
Education	23,200	23,900	22,700	- 700	500
Other State	29,600	30,100	29,100	- 500	500
Local Government	117,500	118,200	114,900	- 700	2,600
Education	76,500	76,800	74,000	- 300	2,500
Other Local	41,000	41,400	40,900	- 400	100
Labor-Management Disputes	600	900	1,400	- 300	- 800

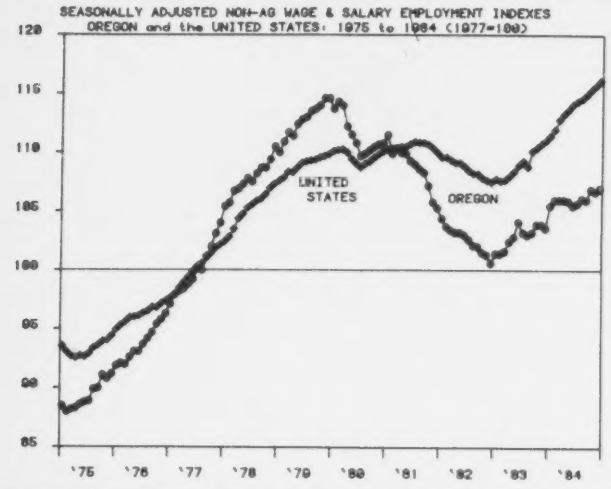
1/ Preliminary

2/ Revised

3/ Includes full and part-time nonfarm wage and salary workers in pay periods including the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employed, private household workers and armed forces excluded. NOTE: Estimated in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and Employment and Training Administration. All data are based on the 1972 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes as amended by the 1977 supplement.

4/ Total nonagricultural wage and salary employment, seasonally adjusted, and indexed to 1977. Data on the earlier index (1972 = 100) can be converted to the 1977 base period by multiplying by a factor of .8264, the ratio between 1972's annual average employment (774,300) and that of 1977 (936,900).

5/ The diffusion index is the percentage of a selected group of 43 industries showing an increase in seasonally adjusted employment. Half of those industries showing no significant change (less than 1/2 of 1%) are counted as increasing.



No real economic change was expected or evident in the December statistics. Overall nonfarm wage and salary employment declined during the month. Edging down toward the million mark, December's nonfarm employment was 1,004,100, a reduction of 4,700 from the 1,008,800 shown in November. More importantly, the employment counts are higher than last year (27,700 above December '83) and the year before (55,800 above December '82).

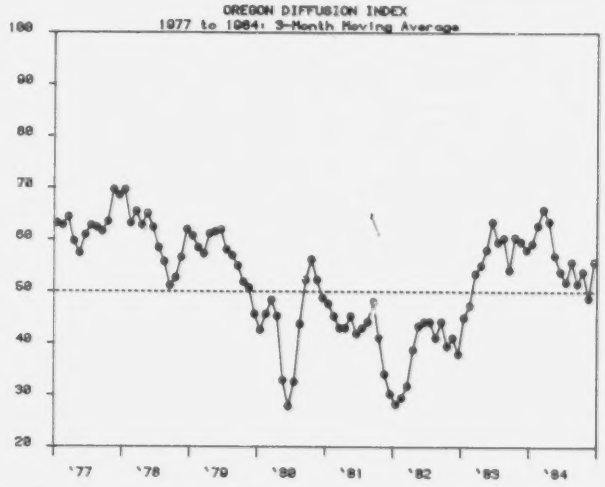
Weather in Oregon during the December mid-month survey period was mostly decent, and that good fortune was reflected in the employment counts. Two industries most susceptible to changes in the weather, lumber and wood products and construction, each showed a reduction of 1,200 workers between November and December. Yet once the influence of normal seasonal movement was extracted from the data, these bellwether industries showed modest December gains. Lumber and wood employers continued on their course, eyeing the timber relief bill for some help. The construction sector, meanwhile, was still buoyed to some degree by roadwork, while home building activity remained sluggish.

Elsewhere in manufacturing, employment moved down for the most part, but likewise showed strength in light of normal seasonal expectations. Activity resulting from ship repair contracts, the settlement of a labor dispute, and the packaging of edibles all contributed to the trend.

Trade is certainly the focal point of any December hiring in Oregon due to holiday sales activity in the retail sector. Among the specific industries where most of the extra help is required (i.e. department stores, apparel stores, etc.), historical trends show that Oregon averages approximately 5,000 additional workers over the holiday period. The count in 1984 held at a respectable 4,500. The year checked out as a good one for holiday hiring, but certainly not a banner year. Although employers were somewhat restrained in hiring additional workers, they did post success through bargain prices and aggressive sales activity. As a result, the dollar volume was probably not changed too much from last year and employment was just slightly under par, but the volume of goods sold was substantial.

Elsewhere in nonmanufacturing, the largest change was in government, where 1,700 fewer employees were reported. A brief lull between school quarters accounted for the majority of that change. Similarly in the noneducation portion of government a temporary hiring lull followed the cessation of outdoor work prior to the start of the legislative session and tax season.

In summary, the Oregon economy performed well in December, just as it did throughout 1984. By year's end the unemployment rate had subsided to 8.6% (seasonally adjusted), well below the 9.4% average expected for the year. And the 1984 average is significantly below that of 1983 (10.8%). Nonfarm employment pushed over the million mark the last few months and will average about 994,000 for the year. That, too, is up significantly (+30,400) from 1983. Selected areas of the state still have a long ways to go, particularly those less populated areas dependent on the wood products industry. Yet for the state generally, the economic climate has shown steady improvement.□



OLDER WORKERS: WE NEED THEM NOW AND WE NEED THEM FOR THE FUTURE

According to a 1981 survey by Data Resources, Inc., we will have an increase of 6.3 million older workers in the workforce by the year 2005. As the pool of younger workers decreases, older workers will play an even more vital role in the U.S. economy.

An increasing number of employers are now beginning to recognize that mature workers, in the age group 55 and over, represent a valuable resource rich in individual ability and experience.

For the purpose of dispelling myths associated with aging and to establish better understanding and cooperation between employment program services and private industry, employers and program staff are being invited to participate in a one day conference from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on March 8, 1985 at the Airport Sheraton in Portland, where they will be asked to lend their expertise in an effort to develop new and more effective methods of marketing the mature job seeker. There is no charge; however, you must pre-register for this conference by phoning the Senior Services Division, 378-3751 or the Intergovernmental Relations Division, 378-3732.□

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK – 1985

Jeff Hannum

During the last two years of recovery, Oregon's economy managed to recoup only a third of the nearly 100,000 nonfarm jobs lost in the 1980-82 recession period. Although the remaining job deficit will not be erased in 1985, Oregon's economy will continue to expand in the year ahead. As in 1984, however, the rate of improvement is expected to be slow, and not all industries or regions of the state will share equally in the gains.

The backdrop for Oregon's 1985 outlook is a national economy which grew rapidly in 1983 and the first half of 1984, but has slowed since last summer. This partly reflects a natural maturing of the business expansion as both consumers and business firms begin to ease up on spending for consumer durable goods and business inventories. But it also reflects last spring's credit tightening by the Federal Reserve, which caused interest rates to surge upward during the spring and summer months. Although the FED later reversed its policy and began to encourage lower rates and faster money growth last fall, the national economy is still trying to shake out of the doldrums it entered last summer.

One more factor which has reinforced the slowdown, or "growth recession" as some call it, and which continues to inhibit the recovery, is the soaring U.S. trade deficit. Normally, in the early stages of recovery our imports increase more rapidly than our exports. As the business recovery matures and begins to spread overseas, this situation is reversed, and U.S. exports expand faster than imports. This eventually leads to more jobs in export-related industries. A major problem now is that the extraordinary strength of the dollar is encouraging a rising tide of imports while making our exports too expensive for many overseas buyers. Although the dollar's record strength has helped to keep our inflation rate low, it has inhibited job creation in import-sensitive and export-related industries.

One of the main reasons for the dollar's strength in relation to other currencies is the high level of real, or inflation adjusted, interest rates in the U.S. These rates are exceptionally high because of:

1) huge credit demands, especially by the federal government with its nearly $200 billion annual budget deficits, and
2) a fairly tight monetary policy by the Federal Reserve, which puts a higher priority on controlling inflation than on bringing down interest rates.

Since Oregon's economy is very interest rate-sensitive and is also heavily dependent on foreign trade, how well the state's economy fares in 1985 and beyond will be significantly affected by national and even international developments.

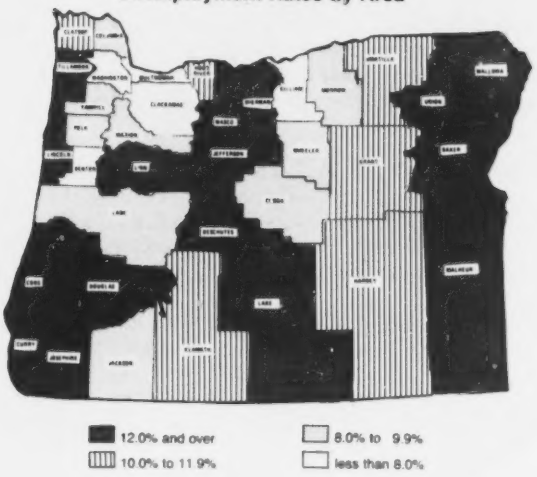
Oregon's outlook for continued, moderate growth in 1985 is based upon a number of assumptions. National fiscal policy will continue to be stimulative, despite the efforts of Congress and the Administration to cut federal spending and perhaps even raise taxes. Oregon, though, will not benefit much from this stimulus because the mix of federal spending will continue to shift toward defense-related programs, and away from domestic programs which help to boost housing construction and farm incomes. In addition, the huge federal budget deficit expected this year will virtually assure that the Federal Reserve will keep a tight rein on money supply growth, and that interest rates will stay relatively high. This also means that the dollar will continue to be overvalued in relation to other currencies. The result will be continued weakness in Oregon industries like agriculture, and even the lumber industry, which are heavily affected by foreign trade. One side benefit of the strong dollar will be a continuation of low inflation during 1985 in the 4-5% range.

It remains to be seen whether the recent drop in both short and long term interest rates will last throughout 1985. Even though many analysts expect rates to move higher again before the end of the year, recent declines will help the housing and wood products industries. Housing starts in the U.S. during 1984 reached 1.74 million. The number of homes started in 1985 will probably decline, but not by much. Although the demand for lumber and wood products should hold up fairly well in 1985, employment in the industry is expected to drop nearly 5%, due to continued competition from other areas, especially Canada, and a host of other problems. The difficulty in maintaining adequate profit levels due to excess capacity, low market prices for lumber and plywood, and high costs for logs and other resources will continue to plague the industry and cause mill closures in 1985. Recent federal legislation allowing partial relief from uneconomical federal timber contracts negotiated in the late '70s and early '80s will help some companies survive. For others, however, it will be too little, too late.

Employment declines are also expected to occur in the aluminum and food products industries during 1985. High costs in the aluminum industry, particularly for electricity, were largely responsible for the closure of Martin Marietta's smelter in The Dalles in December.

A bright spot for Oregon in 1985, however, will be continued growth in many of the other capital goods-oriented manufacturing industries including machinery, fabricated metals and some of the high technology industries. Although growth in these sectors will in most cases be less dramatic than in 1984, it should be sufficient to at least offset the job losses in lumber and plywood, aluminum manufacturing and food products. A major problem, though, will be that most of the jobs lost will be in high wage industries located in nonmetropolitan areas of Oregon, while the majority of the new jobs will be created in the Portland area. In recent months there have been at least 10 announcements of major new "high-tech" plant investments in Oregon that are expected to create over 6,000 construction jobs and over 4,000 direct factory jobs over the next few years. All of these new plants or plant expansions will be located in the Portland area.

State of Oregon
Unemployment Rates by Area



An exception to this pattern will be in fabricated metals. In recent months, several large contracts were awarded to firms in Coos Bay and Astoria, as well as in Portland, to construct oil drilling and processing modules for the Alaska north slope. Much of this work will be performed in 1985.

While the total number of manufacturing jobs in Oregon is not expected to change much between 1984 and 1985, total nonmanufacturing employment will continue to expand at a moderate pace. The construction industry will finally begin to grow a little faster as residential, commercial and industrial building activity pick up and heavy construction remains strong. Employment in the building industry, however, will still lag far behind the levels reached in 1979, as well as the recession years of 1980 and 1981.

As in previous years, retail trade and the various service industries will exhibit the most employment growth. Factors behind these expected gains include a healthy level of consumer spending, another good year for tourism, and a continuation of population growth including net-in-migration to Oregon. Even Oregon's government sector should see a pickup in hiring during 1985, reflecting further population growth, revenue increases (from lottery ticket sales and further economic expansion, for example), and the 1985 legislative session.

Prospects for Oregon's agricultural industry in 1985, however, do not look very promising. Changes in federal farm policies aimed at cutting the budget deficit and encouraging greater reliance on market forces are likely to reduce farm incomes. Large surpluses of some commodities, such as wheat, mean continued low market prices, and export sales of Oregon farm products will be hurt by the strong dollar. Declining land prices, low farm incomes, and relatively high interest rates will make it difficult for many farmers and ranchers to operate profitably.

	December 1984			
	Civilian Labor Force	Total Employment	Unempl.	Rate
STATE OF OREGON	1,323,500	1,199,000	124,500	9.4
Eugene MSA 1/	132,200	119,100	13,100	9.9
Medford MSA 2/	66,410	59,900	6,510	9.8
Portland MSA 3/	660,400	611,100	49,300	7.5
Salem MSA 4/	122,600	111,500	11,100	9.1
Baker	7,180	6,160	1,020	14.2
Benton	34,390	32,420	1,970	5.7
Clatsop	15,680	14,110	1,570	10.0
Columbia	15,760	14,490	1,270	8.1
Coos	27,320	23,110	4,210	15.4
Crook	5,830	5,260	570	9.8
Curry	7,360	5,840	1,520	20.7
Deschutes	33,490	29,470	4,020	12.0
Douglas	41,800	36,060	5,740	13.7
Gilliam	800	740	60	7.5
Grant	3,480	3,100	380	10.9
Harney	3,420	3,050	370	10.8
Hood River	8,280	7,380	900	10.9
Jefferson	5,380	4,690	690	12.8
Josephine	24,230	21,110	3,120	12.9
Klamath	26,960	23,940	3,020	11.2
Lake	3,660	3,200	460	12.6
Lincoln	19,160	16,840	2,320	12.1
Linn	38,290	33,250	5,040	13.2
Malheur	12,210	10,700	1,510	12.4
Morrow	4,910	4,480	430	8.8
Tillamook	9,300	8,100	1,200	12.9
Umatilla	28,110	25,050	3,060	10.9
Union	11,520	10,140	1,380	12.0
Wallowa	3,980	3,500	480	12.1
Wasco-Sherman	12,690	10,800	1,890	14.9
Wheeler	520	470	50	9.6
Yamhill	29,260	26,400	2,860	9.8

1/ Lane County
2/ Jackson County
3/ Clackamas, Multnomah, Washington, and Clark Counties
4/ Marion and Polk Counties

The net result for Oregon should be a year of slow, but continued economic growth. Nonfarm wage and salary employment is expected to rise by 20,000-25,000, and be confined largely to the nonmanufacturing sector of the economy. Oregon's unemployment rate is not likely to decline very much from last year's average of about 9.4%, but some modest improvement is expected in this key indicator. The economic recovery will continue to be imbalanced, however, with the Portland area benefiting the most, and nonmetropolitan areas which are heavily dependent on wood products manufacturing and agriculture benefiting the least, if at all.□

HOURS AND EARNINGS

Mike Staten

There was little change in Oregon's hours and earnings data between October and November; average weekly earnings for total manufacturing rose only $3.08. Durable goods industries posted an average loss of $4.88 per week, while nondurable goods industries increased an average of $16.37. On the durable goods side, the average logging and sawmills workweek dropped to 38.2 hours as the winter slowdown began. Primary metals boosted its workweek by an average of 1.2 hours, but fell short of November 1983 by .6 hour. Machinery fell by $7.00 in average weekly earnings, due primarily to a reduction of .8 hour in the workweek reflecting less overtime worked.

Increases in average weekly earnings for nondurable goods industries were noted in all sectors except canning & preserving and apparel. Declines in canning & preserving were normal for the month as seasonal activities continued to wind down. Apparel's average drop of .9 hours per week was the result of a 25% decrease in the amount of overtime worked. A jump in overtime for paper products boosted average hourly earnings by 24¢ in that industry.

Construction activity continued to slow (chiefly heavy construction), with a resultant drop of 1.1 average weekly hours. The number of hours in the average workweek for trade fell by .5, but there were 4,000 more workers than in October.

On a year-to-year basis, average weekly earnings declined by $5.63 in the construction industry. In trade, employment rose strongly over the year and average weekly earnings climbed $1.65. Despite an employment loss in communications and utilities, due in large part to the AT&T divestiture, average earnings rose nearly $12 a week.□

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF OREGON INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION WORKERS 1/

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Nov. 2/ 1984	Oct. 3/ 1984	Nov. 1983	Nov. 2/ 1984	Oct. 3/ 1984	Nov. 1983	Nov. 2/ 1984	Oct. 3/ 1984	Nov. 1983
TOTAL MANUFACTURING 4/	$401.17	$398.09	$401.06	38.5	38.8	38.9	$10.42	$10.26	$10.31
Durable Goods	414.22	419.10	415.26	39.3	39.5	39.7	10.54	10.61	10.46
Lumber & Wood Products	430.29	441.28	424.93	38.8	39.4	39.2	11.09	11.20	10.84
Logging & Sawmills	450.76	468.83	452.37	38.2	39.2	39.2	11.80	11.96	11.54
Veneer & Plywood	451.47	450.77	429.63	40.6	40.5	39.2	11.12	11.13	10.96
Millwork & Struct Wood	349.44	346.92	338.40	39.0	39.2	40.0	8.96	8.85	8.46
Mobile Homes	283.03	267.52	276.61	34.1	32.0	35.6	8.30	8.36	7.77
Other Wood Products	418.62	430.42	421.40	38.3	39.2	39.2	10.93	10.98	10.75
Furniture & Fixtures	303.53	310.02	264.19	37.8	37.9	34.9	8.03	8.18	7.57
Primary Metals	500.98	478.58	517.10	42.6	41.4	43.2	11.76	11.56	11.97
Fabricated Metals	391.61	390.66	382.14	39.2	39.5	39.6	9.99	9.89	9.65
Machinery	405.67	412.67	402.58	39.5	40.3	39.2	10.27	10.24	10.27
Nondurable Goods	363.45	347.08	360.88	36.2	37.2	36.6	10.04	9.33	9.86
Food & Kindred Products	289.51	282.00	293.41	33.9	36.2	34.6	8.54	7.79	8.48
Canning & Preserving	225.36	236.86	221.54	31.3	35.3	32.2	7.20	6.71	6.88
Other Food Products	399.09	395.40	407.04	38.3	38.5	38.4	10.42	10.27	10.60
Textile Mill Products	227.62	214.68	216.08	38.0	35.9	37.0	5.99	5.98	5.84
Apparel	196.93	204.79	212.60	36.2	37.1	38.1	5.44	5.52	5.58
Paper & Allied Products	588.64	582.83	549.70	41.6	41.9	40.9	14.15	13.91	13.44
Printing & Publishing	418.40	400.37	408.54	36.1	35.4	35.9	11.59	11.31	11.38
Construction 4/	465.53	484.61	471.16	32.6	33.7	31.9	14.28	14.38	14.77
Communications & Utilities 5/	509.18	498.80	497.24	40.8	40.0	40.1	12.48	12.47	12.40
Trade 5/	278.85	283.41	277.20	33.0	33.5	33.6	8.45	8.46	8.25
Wholesale Trade	377.21	384.05	369.20	37.2	37.8	36.7	10.14	10.16	10.06
Retail Trade	233.12	235.62	232.73	31.0	31.5	32.1	7.52	7.48	7.25
Banking & Insurance	273.91	273.35	357.61						
State & Local Government	323.49	325.75	320.84						

1/ Figures are average gross hours and earnings of full and part-time worked or paid for, including overtime and shift premium pay. Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor. All data are based on the 1972 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes.
2/ Preliminary
3/ Revised
4/ Data for production workers only and exclude administrative, supervisory (above working foremen), technical, sales and office personnel.
5/ Data for nonsupervisory employes only, excluding proprietors and executive personnel. Data for retail trade excludes eating and drinking places.

OOICC PROMOTES USES OF LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

NANCY HARGIS

Helping Oregonians to access and use labor market information resources is the mission of the Oregon Occupational Information Coordinating Committee (OOICC). Composed of representatives from 21 state and local organizations, OOICC brings together producers and users of labor market information to determine their needs and the availability of resources. Primary data producers include the Employment Division's Research and Statistics section, the Career Information System and educational agencies that produce enrollment, completion and demographic data on students. Among the major users of occupational information are education and training planners, program administrators, economic forecasters, policy makers, economic developers, counselors, placement staff and individuals--youth and adults--making career decisions.

OOICC is part of a nationwide network created by the Education Amendments of 1976 and continued in subsequent CETA, JTPA and vocational education legislation. In establishing this network, Congress recognized the need to improve the quality, relevance and dissemination of labor market information and to reduce unnecessary duplication of effort among data producers.

Among OOICC's responsibilities are:

1) establishing policies for the Occupational Program Planning System which develops occupational demand/supply analyses,

2) advising the Governor and Legislature on current occupational information issues,

3) training state and local data users on labor market concepts and resources, and

4) conducting research and development activities.

Since 1978, OOICC has sponsored research on such diverse topics as identifying new and changing occupations, assessing the occupational characteristics of new Oregon residents, and reviewing the applicability of popular aptitude and interest tests to disadvantaged youth. During 1985, OOICC will update the new and changing occupations study, revise the Directory of Occupational and Educational Information Sources, and assist the Career Information System in integrating military occupational and training data into their files.

For further information on OOICC, contact Nancy Hargis, Executive Secretary, OOICC, 875 Union Street NE, Salem, OR 97310, or phone (503)-378-8146.□

EMPLOYER'S CORNER

JAYNE MARTIN

REMEMBER -- A NEW COMPUTERIZED EMPLOYER REPORTING PROCESS BEGINS APRIL 1, 1985

The October 1984 issue of Oregon Labor Trends announced that an Optical Character Reader (OCR) will be used to process Employer Tax Reports in 1985.

In November 1984, 1,600 test packets of the quarterly payroll reports were sent to various employers. We asked them to voluntarily assist us by completing the report forms as they normally would. We wanted to test the form and insure that it would be easy to complete and be "readable" by the OCR. The OCR can only read typewritten or mechanically printed forms that are in the same format as the forms provided. Over 50% of the employers responded to our request, giving us many positive comments and valuable suggestions for improving the form.

In February we will send a letter to all Oregon employers, telling them of our plans to convert to OCR processing. We will mail the redesigned forms to employers in March. In April, when we begin to process these reports, the program should run efficiently, thanks to the cooperation and input from the employers included in our test samples.

If you have any questions please call 378-3228.□

OREGON LABOR TRENDS

The Oregon Labor Trends is published monthly by the Research and Statistics Section of the Oregon Employment Division, Raymond P. Thorne, Administrator.

Send comments, questions, and address changes ATTN: R&S-LMI or Phone (503) 378-8657 or toll free 1-800-237-3710 ext. 8-8657.

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